

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01107 01 OF 02 090854Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12 EB-08 TRSE-00
AID-05 OMB-01 ABF-01 /126 W
-----028871 090912Z /10

R 090724Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1107

CAPETWON FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, XA
SUBJ: FURTHER BITS AND PIECES FOLLOWING TRIPOLI OAU
MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: A) STATE 040592; B) TRIPOLI 0339

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: RELIABLE OAU OFFICIAL WHO RECENTLY
RETURNED FROM TRIPOLI MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE CHARACTERIZED
MEETING AS FAIRLY PEDESTRIAN. BECAUSE CONFERENCE BASICALLY
ADHERED TO PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA AND MOST MEMBER
STATES WERE REPRESENTED BY POLITICALLY ORIENTED MINISTERS,
GENERALLY FOREIGN MINISTERS, MEETING DID NOT GENERATE MUCH
EXCITEMENT. MOST CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES, AS NOTED IN
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01107 01 OF 02 090854Z

REFTEL A, WERE EITHER AVOIDED OR POSTPONED UNTIL JULY
KHARTOUM SUMMIT. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

1. PROBABLY MOST CONTROVERSIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER LISTED
ON DRAFT AGENDA--RESTRUCTURING OF OAU--WAS POSTPONED
UNTIL KHARTOUM SUMMIT OR LATER. WITH ELECTIONS FOR SECGEN
AND ASSISTANT SECGENS SCHEDULED FOR KHARTOUM, MEMBER STATES

DIPLOMATICALLY DECIDED IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO ELECT OFFICIALS UNDER ONE SET OF RULES PRIOR TO SUMMIT AND HAVE THEM SERVE THEIR TERMS UNDER AMENDED VERSION AFTERWARD. HOWEVER, UNDERLYING REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OF RESTRUCTURING WAS CONTINUING FACTIONALISM WITHIN OAU AMONG CONTENDERS FOR SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. WHILE SECGEN ETEKI AND ASST SECGEN KAMANDA CONTINUE TO BE LEADING RIVALS FOR SECGEN OFFICE, IT APPEARS THAT ANGLOPHONE MEMBER STATES MAY BE BACKING CANDIDATURE OF ZAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE OR POSSIBLY GAMBIA. ASST SECGENS ARE ALSO DUE FOR RE-ELECTION IN JULY, AND MEMBER STATES HOLDING THESE POSTS (ZAIRE, NIGERIA, KENYA AND ALGERIA) WILL TRY TO RETAIN THE JOBS, IF NOT THE INDIVIDUALS FILLING THEM.

2. OAU BUDGET. OAU OFFICIAL STATED THAT OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 1978 OF US DOLLARS 11.8 MILLION WAS APPROVED, INCLUDING SUBVENTIONS OF US DOLLARS .5 MILLION TO SPECIALIZED PROJECTS. LIBERATION COMMITTEE BUDGET OF NEARLY 4 MILLION DOLLARS WAS ALSO APPROVED.

3. ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT. SOMALIA SENT LARGE DELEGATION (14) TO TRIPOLI, HALF OF WHOM GREW UP IN ETHIOPIA AND ATTENDED SCHOOL HERE. IN CONTRAST TO SOME MEETINGS IN PAST, SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS WERE QUITE FRIENDLY WITH EACH OTHER AND NEITHER GROUP ATTEMPTED TO LOBBY FOR RESOLUTION FAVORABLE TO ITS CAUSE. UPON HIS RETURN FROM TRIPOLI, SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL BERHANU DINKA, TOLD PRESS THAT HIS DELEGATION

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 01107 01 OF 02 090854Z

GATION OBJECTED TO SECTION OF SECGEN'S ANNUAL REPORT ON ETHIOPIA. ARAB LEAGUE SUGGESTION INCLUDED IN REPORT THAT IT WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH OAU ON BASIS OF FORMER'S RESOLUTION LAST SEPTEMBER CONCERNING ETHIO-SOMALI RELATIONS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ETHIOPIA BECAUSE SHE IS NOT MEMBER OF AL, AND RESOLUTION WAS MADE IN HER ABSENCE. DESPITE DELEGATION'S EFFORTS, CHAIRMAN OF MEETING (LIBYAN FONMIN) USED ALL KINDS OF PRESSURE TO RETAIN RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, MEETING DID REGISTER ETHIOPIA'S OBJECTION.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01107 02 OF 02 090859Z

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7585

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1107

4. CHAD-LIBYA BORDER DISPUTE. EITHER FORTUITOUSLY OR MAGNANIMOUSLY, LIBYA CHOSE PERIOD OF MINISTERIAL MEETING TO INITIAL AGREEMENT WITH CHAD, NIGER, AND SUDAN, REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT FOR OAU PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION WITHIN CHAD'S FRONTIERS. IT ALSO ALLOWED LIBYA TO SHUTTLE VISITING JOURNALISTS OUT OF TRIPOLI AND AWAY FROM OAU PROCEEDINGS. LIBYAN REAFFIRMATION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WAS WELCOMED BY ETHIOPIANS.

5. WESTERN SAHARA. OAU OFFICIAL OCNFIRMED LIBREVILLE SUMMIT ON SAHARA WILL NOT BE HELD IN MARCH, BUT THAT SAHARA ISSUE COULD BE ATTACHED TO KHARTOUM SUMMIT. MAJOR FACTORS LEADING TO POSTPONEMENT WERE LACK OF HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST (ONLY 7 CHIEFS OF STATE) AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS. OAU WAS APPARENTLY WILLING TO PROVIDE US DOLLARS 1.5 MILLION TO HOLD SAHARA SUMMIT, BUT GABON INSISTED 8 MILLION WAS MINIMUM NECESSARY. OAU OFFICIAL WAS SURPRISED THAT "NOT EVEN ALGERIANS" WERE LOBBYING VERY ACTIVELY FOR SAHARA SUMMIT.
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01107 02 OF 02 090859Z

6. SOUTHERN AFRICA. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATE BERHANU DINKA STATED THAT LIBERATION COMMITTEE HAD PASSED RESOLUTION, LATER ADOPTED BY MINISTERS, TO RECOGNIZE ONLY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND GIVE OHTER ZIMBABWE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OPTION TO JOIN FRONT IN ARMED STRUGGLE. HE FURTHER ASSERTED OAU WOULD REJECT SITHOLE/MUZOREWA/SMITH INTERNAL SETTLEMENT EVEN IF IT IS COMPLETED.

7. STATUS OF NON-AFRICAN OBSERVERS. OAU OFFICIAL KNEW OF

ONLY TWO "OBSERVERS" TO TRIPOLI MEETING, AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT
RESIDENT IN NAIROBI AND BRITISH DIP RESIDENT IN TRIPOLI.
BOTH HAD ARRANGED THROUGH OAU SECRETARIAT IN ADDIS TO OBTAIN
NON-EXISTANT "OBSERVER STATUS" AT TRIPOLI, WHICH NOT RE-
SPECTED BY LIBYAN GOVT. (ONLY STATUS OAU CAN ACTUALLY GRANT
TO NON-PARTICIPANTS IS THAT OF "JOURNALIST", WHICH HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO SOME WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN PAST TO AFFORD THEM ACCESS
TO PRESS CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE AREA, BUT NOT TO MEETING
IN HALL ITSELF.) OAU INFORMATION OFFICER HAS BEGUN TO LOBBY
WITH SUDANESE EMBASSY HERE TO ASSURE THAT OAU DESIGNATED
NON-PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING SOME WESTERN DIPLOMATS, WILL
HAVE ACCESS TO KHARTOUM PROCEEDINGS IN JULY.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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